REMARKS

In regard to the recent Formalities Letter dated January 26, 2004, concerning a Notice of Omitted Item(s) in a Nonprovisional Application Filed Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b), Applicants respond as follows:

Figures 1A and 1B are identified within the specification on page 5, within the section entitled, "Brief Description of Drawings." Applicants respectfully submit that the description of Fig. 1 in this section is in error; to wit, Fig. 1 does not have subparts "A" and "B". Fig. 1 as submitted with the application is correct, as are the associated references in the specification referring to Fig. 1, save the "Brief Description of Drawings" section.

Applicants elect Option III of the Notice of Omitted Item(s), and amend the specification herein to correct the reference to Fig. 1 in the "Brief Description of Drawings" section.

It is respectfully submitted that this preliminary amendment corrects the references in the specification to the drawing figures. Any questions may be addressed to the undersigned at (203) 787-0595.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Curcio

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Barbara Browne ibmf100403000prelim amd

Date: February 4, 2004

_ Signature:

Edibara Beowne